

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 277112  
ORIGIN DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 OES-07 L-03 EB-08 OMB-01  
TRSE-00 INT-05 DODE-00 SIG-02 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12  
EUR-12 NEA-10 FEA-01 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05  
CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DOTE-00  
EPA-04 ERDA-07 FMC-02 H-02 INR-07 IO-14 JUSE-00  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-02 PA-02 PM-05 PRS-01 SS-15  
USIA-15 FPC-01 STR-05 /203 R

DRAFTED BY D/LOS:MHNORDQUIST/AD

APPROVED BY D/LOS:GTAFT

S/P:HBLANEY

OES/OCA:JBROWN

L/OES:MMCLEOD (INFO)

EB:RMAYER

OMB:MUSNIK

TREASURY:GCHRISTOPULOUS

INTERIOR:MSULLIVAN

DOD:CFEDELE

-----060637 200454Z /11

R 182001Z NOV 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL DIPLOMATIC POSTS

UNCLAS STATE 277112

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: STATUS OF DEEP SEABED MINING BILLS

REF: PARIS 29885 (NOTAL) MADRID 8828 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. NO FURTHER CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON DEEP SEA-BED MINING LEGISLATION IS LIKELY UNTIL AFTER CONGRESS RE-  
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CONVENES NEXT YEAR. A BILL IS NOT RPT NOT EXPECTED TO  
REACH THE PRESIDENT'S DESK UNTIL AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF  
THE NEXT LOS SESSION. END SUMMARY.

2. IN THE SENATE, S.2053, S.2085, AND S.2168 INTRODUCED  
RESPECTIVELY BY SENATORS METCALF, WEICKER, AND STEVENS ARE  
STILL BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COM-

MITTEE. THE THREE BILLS ARE EXPECTED TO BE INTEGRATED INTO A SINGLE BILL WHICH WILL BE CONSIDERED BY THE SENATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE AND THEN MADE THE SUBJECT OF A JOINT REPORT BY THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE COMMERCE COMMITTEES. SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE WILL BE GRANTED A SEQUENTIAL REFERRAL FOR 30 LEGISLATIVE DAYS TO TAKE ACTION ON A BILL. THE SENATE PUBLIC WORKS HAS A REFERRAL ON S.2085 BUT IT IS UNCLEAR WHAT ACTION, IF ANY, WILL TAKE PLACE ON THAT REFERRAL. IN ADDITION, THE BILLS

MAY BE REFERRED TO THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE. ACCORDINGLY, IT APPEARS THAT VOTING ON SENATE FLOOR COULD NOT OCCUR UNTIL MID-MARCH 1978 AT THE VERY EARLIEST.

3. ON OCTOBER 26, THE HOUSE INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORTED OUT H.R. 3350, THE MURPHY-BREAUX BILL, SUBSTANTIALLY AS WRITTEN EXCEPT FOR THE DELETION OF AN INDUSTRY INVESTMENT GUARANTEE PROVISION. THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE WAS GIVEN A REFERRAL UNTIL FEBRUARY 10. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE WILL ALSO BE REFERRED ALL OR A PORTION OF THE BILLS. HENCE, VOTING IN THE HOUSE IS UNLIKELY TO OCCUR BEFORE MARCH, 1978.

4. THE ADMINISTRATION HAS ALREADY CONVEYED QUOTE PRELIMINARY VIEWS UNQUOTE TO CONGRESSIONAL STAFF CONCERNED WITH UNCLASSIFIED

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THE MARK-UP OF THE VARIOUS BILLS IN THIS SESSION OF THE CONGRESS. THE ADMINISTRATION IS REFINING AND ELABORATING A MORE DETAILED POSITION SUPPORTING DEEP SEABED MINING LEGISLATION. AS THIS PROCESS UNFOLDS, WE SHALL BE CONSULTING WITH INTERESTED EMBASSY PERSONNEL IN WASHINGTON, CONGRESSIONAL STAFF AND A BROAD CROSS SECTION OF INDUSTRY AND OTHER GROUPS WITH A VIEW TOWARDS ADOPTING FINAL ADMINISTRATION AMENDMENTS BY THE TIME CONGRESS RECONVENES NEXT JANUARY. IF EVENTS OCCUR AS EXPECTED, DEEP SEABED LEGISLATION SHOULD BE CONSIDERED BY A HOUSE-SENATE CONFERENCE SOMETIME DURING THE UPCOMING 7-8 WEEK LOS SESSION STARTING MARCH 28. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT EXPECT A BILL TO REACH THE PRESIDENT'S DESK UNTIL AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE UP-COMING LOS SESSION.

5. ADDRESSEES MAY USE ABOVE INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE. DEPARTMENT WILL SEND A SUMMARY OF ADMINISTRATION'S MORE DETAILED POSITION WHEN DEVELOPED. WOULD APPRECIATE TEXT OF DRAFT LEGISLATION BEING CONSIDERED BY OTHER STATES.

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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